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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/058,717	01/28/2002	Yousef Georges Aouad	8296R2	6822

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EXAMINER

CAMERON, ERMA C

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1762

DATE MAILED: 07/22/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/058,717

Applicant(s)

AOUAD ET AL.

Examiner

Erma C. Cameron

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 29 and 31 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28,30,32 and 33 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 30 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 5-7.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

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DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention:

A)

- a) wherein the method comprises a dye absorber (claim 28);
- b) wherein the method comprises a particulate soil absorber (claim 29).

B)

- c) applying the crosslinker with a slot die coater (claim 5 and 30);
- d) applying the crosslinker by spraying (claim 31).

Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Currently, Claim 1 is generic.

Applicant is advised that a reply to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

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Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.

2. During a telephone conversation with Julia Glazer on July 17, 2002 a provisional election was made WITH traverse to prosecute the invention of species a) and c), claims 1-28, 30 and 32-33. Affirmation of this election must be made by applicant in replying to this Office action. Claims 29 and 31 are withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

3. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the

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application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claims 1-28, 30 and 32-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

a) There is no antecedent basis for:

claim 1, line 6: steps

claims 3-6, 15, 30: step

claim 18: crosslinking agent

b) Claim 6: elevated temperature has not been defined and is therefore vague.

Claim Objections

6. Claim 30 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicant is required to cancel the

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claim(s), or amend the claim(s) to place the claim(s) in proper dependent form, or rewrite the claim(s) in independent form.

Claim 30 does not appear to further limit claim 5 on which it is dependent.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 1-16, 22-24, 26-28, 30 and 32-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over EP 1020513.

'513 teaches a laundry article that has a functionalized polyamine covalently bonded to the woven or nonwoven fibrous substrate, attached by a coupling agent (2:45-3:55). The polyamine is a dye absorber.

'513 does not teach the method or order of application of the polyamine and coupling agent to the fibrous substrate, but it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have selected conventional application methods such as a slot die coater.

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9. Claims 1-16, 22-24, 26-28, 30 and 32-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Edwards (3694364).

'364 teaches a laundry article that has a polyamine covalently bonded to a cellulosic substrate, attached by an anionic active groups (2:9-59; 9:24-32). The polyamine is a dye absorber and dirt trapper.

'364 does not teach the method of application of the polyamine and anionic active groups to the substrate, but it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have selected conventional application methods such as a slot die coater.

10. Claims 1-16, 22-24, 26-28, 30 and 32-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Edwards (3673110).

'110 teaches a cellulosic substrate treated with anionic groups, and then with nitrogen compounds such as polymeric amines that bind with the anionic groups (1:72-4:47), to create a laundry article that absorbs dyes and dirt.

'110 does not teach slot coating the two treatment compositions, but it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have selected a conventional means of application including slot coaters.

11. Claims 1-16, 22-24, 26-28, 30 and 32-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Johnson et al (5698476).

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'476 teaches a laundry article that comprises a dye absorber such as an ammonium polymer resin, coupled to a fiber support matrix by chemical bonding through an intermediary such as an aziridino crosslinker (4:26-45, Example Set 1).

'476 does not teach a slot coater to apply the crosslinker and polymer, but it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have selected a conventional means of application such as a slot coater.

Allowable Subject Matter

12. Claims 17-21 and 25 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

13. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

The prior art does not disclose nor suggest the method of claim 1 wherein the dye absorber is a polymeric cyclic amine, wherein the crosslinker is one of those of claim 18, or wherein a waxy or hot melt material is additionally added to the substrate.

Conclusion

14. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

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15. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Erma C. Cameron whose telephone number is 703-308-2330.

The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-6:00, alternate Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Shrive Beck can be reached on 703-308-2333. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-305-7718 for regular communications and 703-872-9311 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0661.


ERMA CAMERON
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Erma C. Cameron
Primary Examiner
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July 19, 2003